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Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives comprising the steps, performed by a processor, of:

receiving a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary, wherein the request includes information identifying ana selected originating location, and a selected destination location, and proximity tolerances specifying a user's acceptable distance range of at least one of an alternative originating location or alternative destination location for searching for alternative itineraries;

analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, wherein ~~the analyzing step includes identifying any intermediate locations in a route between the originating location and the destination, and wherein the analyzing step includes identifying at least one alternative itinerary including an alternate originating location or destination that is~~ within the proximity tolerances and different than the originating location or destination included in the request;

determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request;

determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries; and

generating a report, based on the analysis and determination, including a value for each alternative itinerary reflecting a savings in travel costs in comparison with the travel itinerary reflected by the request.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the report includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, each of the alternative itineraries, the value for each travel itinerary, and the savings in travel costs is based on a difference between the value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and each of the alternative itineraries.

3. (Cancelled)

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4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~3~~1, wherein the analyzing step includes locating any alternate lodging that is within the proximity tolerances.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving step includes assigning geographical coordinates for each of the originating location and the destination.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the analyzing step includes generating a set of locations with coordinates located within a predetermined range of the destination based on information from a geographical coordinates database.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of generating a set of locations includes reducing the range when a number of locations in the set exceeds a predetermined number.
8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of generating a set of locations includes increasing the range when a number of locations in the set is smaller than a predetermined number.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Currently Amended) A method for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives comprising the steps, performed by a processor, of:
  - receiving a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary;
  - analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based upon selected rules associated with travel;
  - determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request;
  - determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries; and
  - generating a report reflecting the analysis and determinations.

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wherein the request includes the name of an originating location and a destination, wherein the analyzing step includes identifying at least one alternative itinerary including an alternate originating location or destination that is different than the originating location or destination included in the request, and wherein the analyzing step includes locating any predetermined travel packages that include travel for the travel itinerary reflected in the request between the originating location and the destination, and any predetermined travel packages that includes travel for the at least one alternative itinerary, and wherein the travel packages are pre-configured packages based upon prior negotiations with providers of travel services.

11. (Previously Presented) A method for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives comprising the steps, performed by a processor, of:

receiving a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary;

analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel;

determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request;

determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries;

generating a report reflecting the analysis and determinations;

sending at least one price-to-beat request to a plurality of service providers reflecting information on the travel itinerary with a value associated with the determined value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and the determined value for each of the alternative itineraries;

receiving a response from each of the service providers with information on a service provider travel itinerary and a value of the service provider travel itinerary, wherein the travel itinerary from each of the service providers may be the same or comparable, according to each respective service provider, to the user's travel itinerary or one of the alternative itineraries;

reconfiguring the value of the travel itinerary specified in the request and the values for each of the alternative itineraries based on the responses from each of the service providers; and

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providing a report based on the analysis, determination and reconfiguration including an indication of the reconfigured values of the travel itinerary and the alternative itineraries.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for causing a computer to perform a method for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary, wherein the request includes information identifying an a selected originating location, and a selected destination location, and proximity tolerances specifying a user's acceptable distance range of at least one of an alternative originating location or alternative destination location for searching for alternative itineraries;

analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, wherein ~~the analyzing step includes identifying any intermediate locations in a route between the originating location and the destination, and wherein the analyzing step includes identifying at least one alternative itinerary including an alternate originating location or destination that is~~ within the proximity tolerances and different than the originating location or destination included in the request;

determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request; determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries; and generating a report, based on the analysis and determination, including a value for each alternative itinerary reflecting a savings in travel costs in comparison with the travel itinerary reflected by the request.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the report includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, each of the alternative itineraries, the value for each travel itinerary, and the savings in travel costs is based on a difference between the value for the travel itinerary reflected by the request and each of the alternative itineraries.

14. (Cancelled)

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15. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim ~~14~~12, wherein the analyzing step includes locating any alternate lodging that is within the proximity tolerances.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the receiving step includes assigning geographical coordinates for each of the originating location and the destination.

17. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the analyzing step includes generating a set of locations with coordinates located within a predetermined range of the destination based on information from a geographical coordinates database.

18. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the step of generating a set of locations includes reducing the range when a number of locations in the set exceeds a predetermined number.

19. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the step of generating a set of locations includes increasing the range when a number of locations in the set is smaller than a predetermined number.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for causing a computer to perform a method for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from the user reflecting a travel itinerary, wherein the request includes information identifying an a selected originating location, and a destination location, and proximity tolerances specifying a user's acceptable distance range of at least one of an

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alternative originating location or alternative destination location for searching for alternative itineraries;

analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, wherein ~~the analyzing step includes identifying intermediate locations in a route between the originating location and the destination, and wherein the analyzing step includes identifying at least one~~ alternative itinerary including an alternate originating location or destination that is within the proximity tolerances and different than the originating location or destination included in the request; and

determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request; determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries; and generating a report reflecting the analysis and determinations.

22. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for causing a computer to perform a method for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from the user reflecting a travel itinerary;

analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel;

determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request;

determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries;

sending at least one price-to-beat request to a plurality of service providers reflecting information on the travel itinerary with a value associated with the determined value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and the determined value for each of the alternative itineraries;

receiving a response from each of the service providers with information on a service provider travel itinerary and a value of the service provider travel itinerary, wherein the travel itinerary from each of the service providers may be the same or comparable, according to each respective service provider, to the user's travel itinerary or one of the alternative itineraries;

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reconfiguring the values of the travel itinerary specified in the request and the values for each of the alternative itineraries based on the responses from each of the service providers; and providing a report including an indication of the reconfigured values of the travel itinerary and the alternative itineraries.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer system for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives comprising:

a buyer interface for producing a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary, wherein the request includes information identifying a selected an originating location, and a destination location, and proximity tolerances specifying a user's acceptable distance range of at least one of an alternative originating location or alternative destination location for searching for alternative itineraries; and

a server for analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, for determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request, for determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries, and for generating a report, based on the analysis and determination, including a value for each alternative itinerary reflecting a savings in travel costs in comparison with the travel itinerary reflected by the request,

~~wherein analyzing the travel itinerary includes identifying any intermediate locations in a route between the originating location and the destination, and wherein analyzing the travel~~ itinerary includes identifying at least one alternative itinerary including an alternate originating location or destination that is within the proximity tolerances and different than the originating location or destination included in the request.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 23, wherein the report includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, each of the alternative itineraries, the value for each travel itinerary, and the savings in travel costs is based on a difference between the value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and each of the alternative itineraries.



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25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim ~~25~~23, wherein analyzing the travel itinerary includes locating any alternate lodging that is within the proximity tolerances.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 23, wherein the buyer interface assigns geographical coordinates for each of the originating location and the destination.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 27, wherein analyzing the travel itinerary includes generating a set of locations with coordinates located within a predetermined range of the destination based on information from a geographical coordinates database.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 28, wherein generating a set of locations includes reducing the range when a number of locations in the set exceeds a predetermined number.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 28, wherein generating a set of locations includes increasing the range when a number of locations in the set is smaller than a predetermined number.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A computer system for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives comprising:  
a buyer interface for producing a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary; and  
a server for analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with

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travel, for determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request, for determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries, and for generating a report reflecting the analysis and determinations,

wherein the request includes the name of an originating location and a destination, wherein the analyzing step includes identifying at least one alternative itinerary including an alternate originating location or destination that is different than the originating location or destination included in the request, and wherein analyzing the travel itinerary includes locating any predetermined travel packages that include travel for the travel itinerary reflected in the request between the originating location and a destination, and any predetermined travel packages that include travel for the at least one alternative itinerary, and wherein the travel packages are pre-configured packages based on prior negotiations with providers of travel resources.

33. (Previously Presented) A computer system for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives comprising:

a buyer interface for producing a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary;

a server for analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, for determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and for determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries; and

a trader interface for receiving price-to-beat requests from the server and for providing a response from a trader with information on a trader travel itinerary and a value of the trader travel itinerary, wherein the travel itinerary from the trader interface may be the same or comparable, according to the trader, to the user's travel itinerary or one of the alternative itineraries

wherein the server is configured to reconfigure the value of the travel itinerary specified in the request and the values for each of the alternative itineraries based on the response from the trader and generate a report including an indication of the reconfigured values of the travel itinerary and the alternative itineraries.

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34. (Previously Presented) A computer system for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives comprising:

a buyer interface for producing a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary;

a server for analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, for determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and for determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries; and

a supplier interface for receiving price-to-beat requests from the server and for providing responses from a plurality of service providers with information on service provider travel itineraries and respective values of the service provider travel itineraries, wherein each of the travel itineraries from the supplier interface may be the same or comparable, according to each of the plurality of service providers, to the user's travel itinerary or one of the alternative itineraries

wherein the server is configured to reconfigure the value of the travel itinerary specified in the request and the values for each of the alternative itineraries based on the responses from the service providers and generate a report including an indication of the reconfigured values of the travel itinerary and the alternative itineraries.

35. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 23, including a supplier interface for receiving availability price requests from the server and for providing availability price responses from a plurality of service providers with information on service provider travel itineraries and respective values of the service provider travel itineraries, wherein each of the travel itineraries from the supplier interface may be the same or comparable, according to each of the plurality of service providers, to the user's travel itinerary or one of the alternative itineraries.

36. (Currently Amended) A computer system for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives comprising:

an interface means for producing a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary, wherein the request includes information identifying an selected originating location, and a selected destination location and proximity tolerances specifying a user's acceptable distance

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range of at least one of an alternative originating location or alternative destination location for searching for alternative itineraries; and

a serving means for analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, for determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request, for determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries, and for generating a report, based on the analysis and determination, including a value for each alternative itinerary reflecting a savings in travel costs in comparison with the travel itinerary reflected by the request,

~~wherein analyzing the travel itinerary includes identifying any intermediate locations in a route between the originating location and the destination, and wherein analyzing the travel~~ itinerary includes identifying at least one alternative itinerary including an alternate originating location or destination that is within the proximity tolerances and different than the originating location or destination included in the request.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the report includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, each of the alternative itineraries, and a difference between the reconfigured value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and each of the alternative itineraries.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the report is produced geographically on a map, wherein the map includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, at least one of the alternative itineraries and the reconfigured value for each travel itinerary included in the map.

39. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the report includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, each of the alternative itineraries, and a difference between the reconfigured value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and each of the alternative itineraries.

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40. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the report is produced geographically on a map, wherein the map includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, at least one of the alternative itineraries and the reconfigured value for each travel itinerary included in the map.

41. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 34, wherein the report includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, each of the alternative itineraries, and a difference between the reconfigured value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and each of the alternative itineraries.

42. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 34, wherein the report is produced geographically on a map, wherein the map includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, at least one of the alternative itineraries and the reconfigured value for each travel itinerary included in the map.

43. (Currently Amended) A method for providing information regarding savings associated travel alternatives comprising the steps, performed by a processor, of:

receiving a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary, wherein the request includes information identifying an a selected originating location, and a selected destination location, and proximity tolerances specifying a user's acceptable distance range of at least one of an alternative originating location or alternative destination location for searching for alternative itineraries;

analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, wherein the analyzing step further includes identifying ~~any intermediate locations in a route between the originating location and a destination and~~ at least one alternative itinerary including an alternate originating location or destination that is within the proximity tolerances and different than the originating location or destination included in the request;

determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request;

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determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries; and  
generating a report reflecting the analysis and determinations.

44. (Currently Amended) A method for providing travel alternatives, comprising:  
receiving, from a user, a request including a travel itinerary including ~~ana~~ selected  
origination location, a selected destination location, ~~and a~~ first value associated with the  
itinerary, and proximity tolerances specifying a user's acceptable distance range of at least one of  
an alternative originating location or alternative destination location for searching for alternative  
itineraries;

determining, without user intervention, a set of alternative itineraries, at least one  
alternate itinerary being associated with an alternative value and a route between an alternate  
originating location or alternate destination location that is within the proximity tolerances, and  
either the origination or destination location included in the request; and

providing a report including a indication of the first value, the alternate value for each  
alternate itinerary, and a savings value for each alternate itinerary reflecting a difference between  
the first value and the respective alternate value.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the first value reflects a  
cost of travel between the origination and destination locations.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the first value further  
includes a cost of lodging.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the set of alternate  
itineraries includes at least one alternate itinerary that is associated with a pre-configured travel  
package based on prior negotiations with at least one provider of travel resources.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein each alternate value is  
equal to or less than the first value.

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49. (Currently Amended) A method for providing travel alternatives, comprising:  
receiving, from a user, a request including a travel itinerary including ana selected  
origination location, a selected destination location, and a first value associated with the  
itinerary, and proximity tolerances specifying a user's acceptable distance range of at least one of  
an alternative originating location or alternative destination location for searching for alternative  
itineraries;

determining, without user intervention, a set of alternative itineraries, at least one  
alternative itinerary including a route between an alternate origination location or alternate  
destination location that is within the proximity tolerances, and either the origination or  
destination location included in the request;

determining an alternate value for each alternate itinerary; and  
providing a report including a geographical map that contains:

a graphical representation of the origination location, destination location, and each  
alternate location,

a graphical representation of a first path between the origination and destination locations  
and a corresponding cost of travel for the first path, and

a graphical representation of an alternate path between each alternate location and either  
the origination or destination locations and a corresponding cost of travel for each respective  
alternate path.

50. (Currently Amended) A method for providing travel alternatives, comprising:  
receiving, from a user, a request including a travel itinerary including a travel route  
between ana selected origination location and a selected destination location, and proximity  
tolerances specifying a user's acceptable distance range of at least one of an alternative  
originating location or alternative destination location for searching for alternative itineraries;

determining, without user intervention, a set of alternative itineraries, at least one  
alternative itinerary including an alternate route between an alternate origination location or

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alternate destination location that is within the proximity tolerances, and either the origination or destination location included in the request; and

providing a report to the user such that the user may visually inspect a map including a graphical representation of the route between the origination and destination locations and the alternate routes, and a travel cost for each corresponding route.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the travel cost for each route is presented adjacent to the graphical representation of the respective route on the map.